

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Weichselbaum on March 9th 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 2: after "processing plant" delete "of" and replace with -- for making -- and after "band-type product" insert --from metal coils-- before " ,"

In claim 1, line 12: delete "a method" before "wherein the running"

In claim 1, line 27: after "intermediate accumulator" insert -- wherein both the first phase and the second phase of the second junction cycle comprise welding -- before "."

Claims 12-15 (cancelled)

Claims 37 and 38 (cancelled)

NOTE: As noted on the Notice of Allowability - A new oath or declaration is required before this application will issue as patent. The Oath/Declaration submitted as part of the 371 application is only in French. As per MPEP 602.06 and 37 CFR 1.69 Foreign language oaths and declarations:

(a) Whenever an individual making an oath or declaration cannot understand English, the oath or declaration must be in a language that such

individual can understand and shall state that such individual understands the content of any documents to which the oath or declaration relates.

(b) **>Unless the text of any oath or declaration in a language other than English is in a form provided by the Patent and Trademark Office or in accordance with PCT Rule 4.17(iv), it must be accompanied by an English translation together with a statement that the translation is accurate, except that in the case of an oath or declaration filed under § 1.63, the translation may be filed in the Office no later than two months from the date applicant is notified to file the translation.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art, Daub and Greenberger, teach a method of managing coils being fed into a continuous inline processing plant as applied in previous rejections however the prior art as a whole fails to teach the claimed method as a whole. Specifically, such as in Daub and Greenberger, the intermediate accumulator is fed from the inlet section in order to complete to two separate junctions between three different coils. The claimed method requires that the same junction is temporarily joined by welding in the first portion of the inlet section, fed through the intermediate accumulator, and subsequently welded in the second portion of the inlet section after the intermediate accumulator. Such is not taught or obvious in view of the prior art as a whole.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas P. D'Aniello whose telephone number is (571)270-3635. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8am to 5pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica Ward can be reached on (571) 272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. P. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/Jessica L. Ward/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793

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